

## Part 1: Analyze a Student Model

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### Defying Death: “The Interlopers” and “Two Friends”

How can people find meaning in life when death could come at any time? Philosophers and writers have pondered this question for centuries. “The Interlopers” by Saki and “Two Friends” by Guy de Maupassant are two short stories with similar messages about death and fate. However, 5 the nature of the characters’ relationships, the experiences they undergo, and the circumstances of their deaths are completely different.

At the beginning of the stories, the relationships between the characters are totally dissimilar. Ulrich von Gradwitz and Georg Znaeym in “The Interlopers” are inheritors of a family land dispute and 10 share a deep, lifelong hatred: “as boys they had thirsted for one another’s blood, as men each prayed that misfortune might fall on the other.” Von Gradwitz jealously guards the land, hoping to find his enemy illegally hunting there and to kill him.

In “Two Friends,” 15 on the other hand, Morissot and Sauvage share a deep friendship. They met while fishing and “understood each other perfectly . . . because their tastes were so alike and their feelings identical.” Their relationship endures, even though they know little of each other’s lives and have no contact beyond their shared hobby.

In both stories, the bond between the characters continues to draw 20 them together as the plot develops. The pairs of characters undergo very different experiences, however. In “The Interlopers,” the two enemies tramp through von Gradwitz’s forest, Znaeym hunting for game and von Gradwitz hunting for Znaeym. In contrast, the characters in “Two Friends” meet accidentally in the street. Overjoyed to see each other 25 after a long separation, they decide to go fishing, ignoring the fact that their country is at war.

#### KEY TRAITS IN ACTION

**Introduction** hooks readers with a question and **identifies the literary works**. The **thesis statement** spells out the differences in the two works.

Quotation and specific **examples** support the idea of the characters’ hatred.

**Transitional phrase** clarifies the contrast between the relationships in the two stories.

Uses a point-by-point **organizational pattern**. **Precise words** (*bond, draw, tramp, overjoyed*) and **appropriately formal language** strengthen the essay.